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RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE

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STATE FOR EAP/MLS AND DRL/AWH
NSC FOR KURT TONG

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: GVN RELEASES LE QUOC QUAN

REF: HANOI 1112

¶1. (SBU) On Saturday morning, June 16, the GVN released attorney, political activist, and former Reagan-Fascell Fellow Le Quoc Quan from detention in Hanoi. He joined his family the same day. Quan contacted Poloff by e-mail on Sunday, June 17 and told him that he had "lost weight" and was "tired" but that his mind was "in good condition."

¶2. (SBU) According to Quan, he is "out on bail" and must still "work with the police" under his release order. MFA had told us earlier that Quan would be released under "Administrative Reprimand." Post will seek clarification about any post-release restrictions placed on his activities. Quan thanked Embassy Hanoi for all its efforts in securing his release and expressed his desire to keep in contact.

¶3. (SBU) Background: Le Quoc Quan was detained on March 8, 2007, under suspicion of violating Article 79 of the Penal Code, which covers "crimes of infringing upon national security," including "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration." Quan had recently returned from the United States, where he was a NED Reagan-Fascell Fellow.

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